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MANILA

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LONDON

CAIRO

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ISLAMABD

BEIJING

BRUSSELS

VIENNA//ALSO FOR MBFR DEL VIENNA//

SLD BRUSSELS//FOR NATO//

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TEL AVIV

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BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS -  
JANUARY 12, 1988

1. PRC/USSR: CHINESE ENCOURAGE SOVIET GESTURES

THE CHINESE HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THEIR APPROVAL OF CHANGING SOVIET DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES BY INTERVIEWING GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. GORBACHEV SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLATTER BEIJING AND PRESS FOR A SUMMIT, EXAGGERATING MUTUAL INTERESTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE US AUDIENCE. BEIJING'S TONED-DOWN VERSION OF HIS REMARKS ON IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND THE INEVITABILITY OF SOCIALIST REFORMS HELPS TO LEGITIMIZE THE VIEWS OF CHINESE REFORMERS IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR POLICY REVIEW IN BEIJING.

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CHINESE INTEREST IN GORBACHEV. PUBLICATION IN AN INFLU-  
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ENTIAL POLITICAL JOURNAL OF GORBACHEV'S RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS--ON INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SOVIET REFORM--IS UNPRECEDENTED IN CHINA, THOUGH IT CAPS A TREND TOWARD POSITIVE ACADEMIC AND PRESS ASSESSMENTS OF GORBACHEV'S PROGRAM. SOME SPECIALISTS POINT TO FIRST-TIME EVIDENCE OF LOW-KEY SOVIET PRESSURE ON VIETNAM TO WITHDRAW FROM CAMBODIA. BEIJING'S MOVE THUS SEEMS INTENDED TO SIGNAL APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL DIRECTION GORBACHEV IS TAKING, HIGHLIGHT THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION, AND SMOKE OUT HIS REAL INTENTIONS REGARDING BEIJING'S STRATEGIC INTERESTS.

DOMESTIC ANGLE. PUBLICATION OF THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT THAT DETENTE LIES AHEAD AND THAT RADICAL REFORM IS ESSENTIAL AND INEVITABLE HELPS LEGITIMIZE THE VIEWS OF BEIJING'S REFORMERS AS THEY PREPARE MAJOR REFORM PLANS. ZHAO ZIYANG'S PROTEGE, VICE PREMIER TIAN JIYUN, WAS CITED BY XINHUA ON JANUARY 10, WELL AFTER GORBACHEV WAS INTERVIEWED, AS STRESSING HOW MUCH BEIJING AND MOSCOW COULD LEARN FROM EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES ON REFORMING THE CENTRAL PLANNING SYSTEM. HIS REMARKS HINT AT UPGRADING THE LEVEL OF CONTACTS IN ECONOMIC AND REFORM MATTERS, WHILE HOLDING FAST ON CHINESE PREREQUISITES FOR POLITICAL NORMALIZATION.

GORBACHEV SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY. IN HIS "NEW YEAR" REMARKS, GORBACHEV EMPHASIZED HIS NEW PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY. HE HELD OUT VA73 049.83 9! - .757-) -::9..9- DATION OF INTERESTS IN BILATERAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS--IF THE CHINESE AGREE TO A SUMMIT, FOR WHICH HE ALLEGED "BOTH

SIDES FEEL THE OBJECTIVE NEED." SPRINKLING IN FLATTERY REGARDING CHINA'S IMPORTANT GLOBAL ROLE AND PROGRESS IN INRISS

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REFORM, HE TRIED TO DEPICT A GROWING COMMONALITY OF VIEWS AS SOCIALISTS. THAT IZVESTIYA AND SOVIET TELEVISION PUBLICIZED HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE CHINESE JOURNAL CAME OFF THE PRESS INDICATES GORBACHEV'S PRIMARY INTENT TO INFLUENCE THE DOMESTIC AND US AUDIENCE.

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